

From: Chuck Smith

Sent: Friday, February 26, 2016 9:20 AM

To: HSSframework; Plummer, Linda

Subject: James Pierson Beckwourth should be added to eighth grade history/social science framework

Thank you for the opportunity for public comment about the history that should be taught in our public schools.

This is regarding Chapter 12, page 346, line 588, which currently reads: "explorations of trailblazers such as Zebulon Pike, Jedediah Smith, Christopher "Kit" Carson, and John C. Fremont; they might discuss the searing accounts of"

Recommended change is to add James Pierson Beckwourth, who was born into slavery, was raised by a white father and black mother, became a mountain man, lived among the Crow Indian nation (becoming a Crow War Chief) for a decade, and discovered the lowest elevation pass through the Sierra Nevada. His autobiography was published in English, French, and Spanish and circulated around the globe five years before the Civil War, antagonizing history scholars from the Southern states, who engaged in decades of attempts to wipe his existence from history, an attempt that succeeded so well the character of James P. Beckwourth was played by a short white guy in a 1950s Hollywood movie. Instead of being a great horseman with great courage, the character sold liquor and guns to Indians. Beckwourth's autobiography remains the only first person account of life among the Plains Indians, and his impact on developing an easier trail through the Sierra Nevada into Northern California brought tens of thousands of people into the gold region.

Recommended language change Chapter 12, page 346, line 588: explorations of trailblazers such as Zebulon Pike, Jedediah Smith, James Pierson Beckwourth, Christopher "Kit" Carson, and John C. Fremont; they might discuss the searing accounts of